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And the jewelers of Paris have found themselves the dupes of what has not yet been pronounced to be a fraud. Last year they were the victims of a diamond fraud. The gems found at the cape were more pientiful and of inferior quality to the genuine diamonds of fifty years ago. The fire was less brilliant, and the stones had a yellow tinge. An ingenious manipulator steeped them in a violet dye, and by some chemical process they came forth from the ordeal a pure and brilliant white. This industrious investigator re-222 Douglas Avenue, Wichita, Kan J. M. ALLEN & CO. GROCERS white. This industrious investigator re-ceived as the reward of his research a recom-pense of six months' imprisonment, and the Palais Royal jewelers were comforted.—Paris

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RATTLESNAKES.

A MAN WHO HAS BEEN CATCHING THEM FOR YEARS.

Good Price Paid for the Reptiles to Put in Museums-How to Bag the Snakes - Their Characteristics - Oil Bite.-What They Eat.

The demand for rattlesnakes for museum menageries, side shows and for exhibition at agricultural fairs in the large country towns is yearly on the increase and is evidence that, in spite of the repulsive appearance of the reptiles, there is something about them that is certain to attract attention, and which incertain to attract attention, and which in-duces the showman to pay well for fine speci-mens for exhibition. Among the persons en-gaged in capturing these snakes to supply this demand none have been more successful than John Geer, of Long Eddy, who has been known to ship as many as fifty-four at one time, and who once received an order from Cincinnati for 100 from consequences. Cincinnati for 100 from one person.

Catching rattlesnakes is by no means a very difficult or dangerous occupation, though it may seem to be so to those unacquainted with the habits of the reptiles, and who only think of them with a shudder at the thought of a bite from fangs which contain so deadly a poison. Armed simply with a stick five or six feet long, to one end of which is attached an iron hook, and another stick about half as long, to one end of which is tied a good stout cord, the loose end of which terminal loop-slipping noose, and accompanied by an assistant carrying a bag or a sack, the rattlesnake catcher is ready for work. He repairs upon a warm day in spring to the "dens" in search of snakes. The "dens" are spots upon the barrens of loose stone or openings under ledges of rocks, through which the reptiles crawl to their winter quarters, and to which they go on the first appearance of cold weather in the fall and remain till the return of warm centher in the spring.

HOW TO BAG THE SNAKES. When first recalled to conscious life by the appearance of warm weather, these snakes crawl to the open air, at first carefully shield-ing themselves from the direct rays of the sun and becoming gradually used to the light and heat by keeping for a few days under the edge of the stones or in the crevices of the rocks. After lying about the dens in a semitorpid condition for several days, and having regained their normal condition after their long winter's sleep in underground darkness, they start out on their summer's cruise in

While thus lying dumpishly about the den the snake catcher takes advantage of their lethargic condition. With his hook he draws them out from their comfortable quarters, and, hastily slipping the noose over their heads, drops them into the bag, which is held open by his assistant. With a knife he cuts the string as near the animal's head as safety will warrant, and then fixing another noose is ready for more makes. In this manne sometimes twenty or thirty, or even more, may be caught in one day. They seldom struggle in the bag, and never try to bite. Seeming to understand these they are power-less, they willingly submit to the inevitable. John Geer has been known to throw over his shoulders a tag containing sixten lever his shoulders a tag containing sixten lever his ers a lag containing sixteen large rat tlesnakes and carry them without fear of in

The number of rattles is generally supposed to indicate the age of the snake, a year being allowed for each one. But they frequently lose them and it is no uncommon occurre to find a very large snake with but few rattles and sometimes with none, and in like manne a comparatively small one with a large number.

By many persons it is supposed that the black rattlesnake is the female and the yellow the male. But color is no distinction of sex. The rattlesnake travels by night as well as by day, and in the course of the season frequently gets several miles from its den, to which, however, it invariably returns on the first ap-pearance of cold weather, unless it has been disturbed there, and then it seeks other quarters.

The rattlesnake swims with great case, float

ing lightly upon the water with its rattles held up to keep them from getting wet. It is upon a beam in a tannery while it was at least ten feet from the ground.
Rattlesnakes feed on rats, mice, squirrels

birds, frogs, toads and rabbits, and in lying in wait for their prey exhibit a patience that would be a credit to Job. They seldom bite, even when they have an opportunity, unless irritated or trodden upon. They cannot strike unless coiled or partially so, and cannot reach more than one-half or two-thirds their length. While their gastronomic capacity is very great (a good sized snake will make way with a full grown rabbit at a single meal) their ability to fast is equally as wonderful. There are many well attested instances of their liv-ing for two years without eating!

Among the people living in the country in-fested by them their oil is held in great reputs for the cure of ear ache, deafness, stiff joints and various other ills, and sells readily at \$1 per cance, while their gall preserved in chalk is regarded as an excellent remedy for a fever. No remedy for their poisonous bite is known to the medical fraternity, and it is generally regarded as incurable, though an occasional cure is effected by the liberal use of whisky.

New York World.

Jewel Fraud in Paris. There is consternation in the Palais Royal, and the jewelers of Paris have found them-

Now to Select a Melon. A good melon can be selected without cutting it. There are several methods in vogue. One is to look for a heavy melon, because it is One is to look for a heavy melon, because it is supposed to be full of meat and is not green and pithy; another is to press the melons and select the one which cracks internally; another is the played out theory that any good melon can be determined by thumping; yet another is to run the finger nail over the surface; the outer cuticle of the melon, if ripe, will peel off readily; pressing with the thumb is an alleged excellent method; the green melon is spongy and soft; the ripe melon is solid: spongy and soft; the ripe melon is solid; but the best way is to take your melon to an analytical chemist and have him deter-mine the amount of saccharine matter. If the per cent. is large, it probably has been a good melon. Some people are content to take their meion to a physician and have it probed. Still others buy cantelopes instead at fifteen and twenty-five cents each.-In dianapolis News.

A Superstitious Official.

A portly and jolly government official came out of his office without his cane. "Oh," said he, "I must go back; that is bad luck." So to avert the threatened evil he marched back into the office, sat down, took a half dollar out of his pocket, laid it upon his desk, turned out of his porcet, and it upon his desk, turned it over, and then replaced it in his pocket. He then took his cane and marched out with a cheerful heart. Of course, he did not believe in this hocuspocus business, but then he had heard the omen all his life, and it could do no harm to go through the rigmarole, so he went through it.—Portland Oregonian.

Lots in McCormicks addition are now on sale. This property in first hands, lies near the street railway, and is convenient to schools and churches. There is nothing better in the market.

Four lots on North Topeka avenue at \$100, less than market

Twenty lots in Orme & Phillips addition at a special bargain. Lots of almost every dimension on College Hill. The material is ordered for street railway to that suburb. This property will double in value.

Acres in all directions, suitable for subdividing. House and lot on South Market street, rented for \$10. Price \$1,000,

Business lot on North Main street, very cheap at \$5,600. Lot centrally located on Douglas avenue, \$12.500.

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10 lots in Richland addition, \$150 each, must be sold this week. 19 lots in Chatauqua addition, \$175 each

Lots in Maple Grove addition east of the city. These lots are selling rapidly at popular prices.

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I have the exclusive sale of a sub-division of the Moser Home-stead on College Hill. These are certainly the best lots in the mar-ket for parties intending to build. Prices range from \$1600 to \$2,000 each, part_time. Call early and make a selection.

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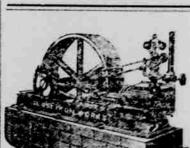
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